

# Generations of STEM: Rebecca Lee Crumpler, MD

## African-American Physician & Author

Raised by her aunt who took care of sick neighbors, Rebecca attended school in the Boston area and went on to become the first African American woman in the U.S. to earn a medical degree. She graduated from New England Female Medical College, and since the school closed shortly after her graduation, was the only African-American graduate from that school.

Upon the completion of her schooling in 1864, Rebecca married Arthur Crumpler, an escaped slave, and began practicing medicine in Boston. At the end of the Civil War, she moved to Virginia to care for women, children and recently emancipated Blacks unable to receive care from white doctors. She was subjected to intense racism, and was often ignored by male physicians and had trouble getting prescriptions filled.

The Crumplers later returned to Boston, where she authored *A Book of Medical Discourses in Two Parts*, likely the first medical text by an African American author and the only book by a female physician in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

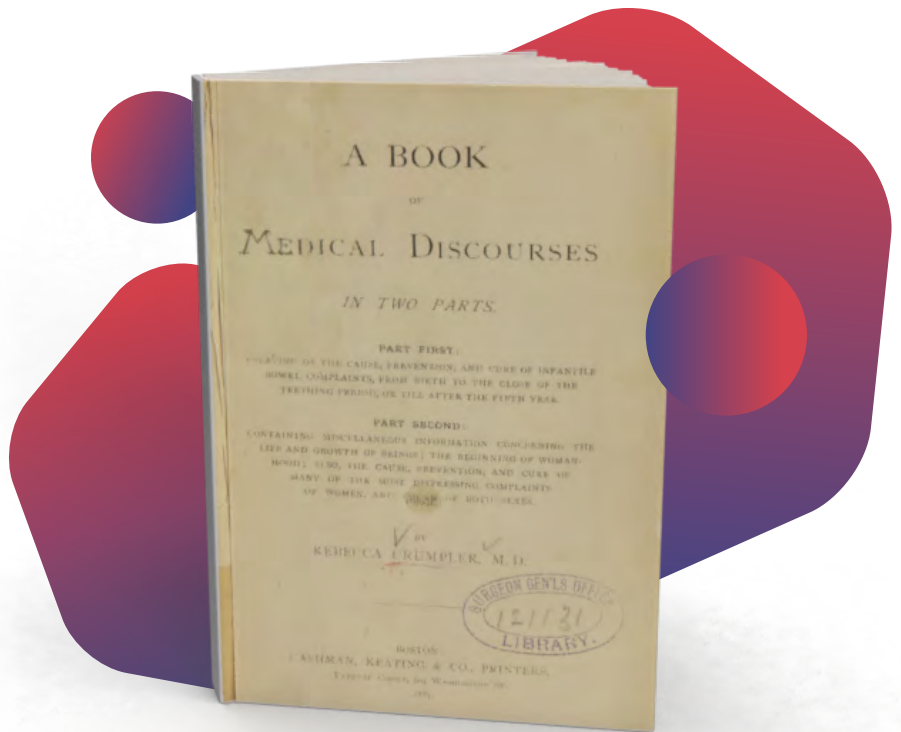


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